UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/684
4 September 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached letter, dated 1 September 1997, which I have received from the Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee established pursuant to the mandate of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB).

Attached to the letter is the second periodic report of the Member States participating in MISAB, as requested by the Security Council in its resolution 1125 (1997) of 6 August 1997.

I should be grateful if you would bring the letter and its enclosure to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-23049 (E) 040997 040997

/...

Annex

[Original: French]

Letter dated 1 September 1997 from the Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the second report, covering the period from 20 August to 3 September 1997, requested by the Security Council in paragraph 6 of resolution 1125 (1997) concerning the situation in the Central African Republic.

(Signed) General Amadou Toumani TOURÉ
Chairman of the International
Monitoring Committee

Enclosure

Second report to the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1125 (1997) concerning the situation in the Central African Republic

(1 September 1997)

INTRODUCTION

1. On 6 August 1997, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1125 (1997), in which it approved the continued conduct by Member States participating in the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB) of the operation to achieve its objective to facilitate the return to peace and security by monitoring the implementation of the Bangui Agreements. Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Council authorized the Member States participating in MISAB and those States providing logistical support to ensure the security and freedom of movement of their personnel. It decided that that authorization would be limited to an initial period of three months, after which the Council would assess the situation on the basis of the reports submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations at least every two weeks by the Member States participating in MISAB.

2. This is the second report which the Security Council requested the Member States participating in MISAB to provide pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1125 (1997). It was prepared by the International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the Bangui Agreements, which includes the representatives of the States members of the International Mediation Committee (Gabon, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali), in collaboration with the MISAB Command, which consists of high-ranking officers representing all of the Member States participating in MISAB, including Senegal and Togo.

3. This report describes developments in the situation in the Central African Republic from 21 August to 3 September 1997.

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

4. Both the International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the Bangui Agreements and the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements are under the political authority of General Amadou Toumani Touré, former President of the Republic of Mali, Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee and personal representative of the heads of State concerned.

5. The International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the Bangui Agreements, chaired by General Touré, includes one representative of each of the four heads of State of the members of the International Mediation Committee, as well as a consultant from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who acts as a diplomatic adviser to the Committee.

6. Thus, the International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the Bangui Agreements is the body which directs the actions of MISAB, since it receives the necessary political guidance directly from the heads of State concerned, and especially from the President of the Gabonese Republic, who is Chairman of the International Mediation Committee. As such, it is the negotiating body among the various parties to the Central African crisis (President of the Republic, Government, presidential majority, group of 11 opposition political parties, moderate opposition parties or CODEPO, centrists, former rebels, loyalist members of the armed forces, trade unions, civil society). As its name indicates, the International Monitoring Committee is primarily responsible for the political monitoring of the Bangui Agreements.

7. The International Monitoring Committee has adopted a plan of action which reflects the gist of the main provisions of the Bangui Agreements in the form of a timetable, which can be outlined as follows:

- Formation of a government of national union;
- Adoption of an amnesty law covering those who committed offences in the context of the third rebellion;
- Disarmament (surrender of weapons by the former rebels in honour and dignity, and recovery of weapons by MISAB from militias and civilian populations);
- Implementation of the recommendations of the General Meeting on National Defence;
- Situation of former heads of State;
- Suspension of the parliamentary audit;
- Final phase of national reconciliation through a number of actions aimed at consolidating peace and security (organization of regional and sectoral awareness-raising seminars, organization of a National Reconciliation Conference, elaboration of an electoral code, access by political parties to the State media and other measures).

8. MISAB is under the patronage of President El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon, senior head of State of the International Mediation Committee. It is under the political authority of General Amadou Toumani Touré, Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee. While it was initially under the command of Brigadier General Edjo Edouard Nkili of Gabon, since 2 August 1997 it has been headed by General Augustin Mombo Moukagni of Gabon, assisted by a Chief of Staff (Colonel Talla Niang of Senegal), a Legal Counsel (Colonel Sizing Walla of Togo) and the heads of each of the six contingents.

9. Between 21 August and 3 September 1997 the International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the Bangui Agreements conducted intensive activities designed to secure progress in relation to each of the elements in its timetable and reflecting the various political arrangements.

Government of national union

10. After the decision of 7 August 1997 by the group of 11 opposition political parties to end the suspension of the participation in the Government of the ministers belonging to its ranks, President Ange-Félix Patassé presided over an important meeting in the Palaise de la Renaissance on 12 August 1997 which brought together the entire Central African political community, the Government, the International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the Bangui Agreements and the MISAB Command. Following that meeting, the first for eight months, the Prime Minister and Head of Government, on the instructions of the President of the Republic and head of State, made a statement on Monday, 1 September 1997 in which he announced the re-establishment of the Government of Action in Defence of Democracy, that is to say the return to the Government of the nine opposition ministers who had left it on 6 May 1997. A page has been turned. There is guarded optimism here that the mediation machinery in the Central African Republic will become a little more dynamic so that positive steps can be taken towards peace and national reconciliation.

Implementation of the amnesty law covering offences relating to the third rebellion and the misappropriation of public funds under investigation

11. This law, which was promulgated on 15 March 1997, is currently being implemented with a great deal of pragmatism and understanding. It is not being implemented blindly as regards the sanctions to be taken against citizens who may be illegally in possession of weapons following the 15-day deadline established by the law. The head of State and the relevant political authorities have thus far shown a sense of responsibility and level headedness and have taken into account the exceptional political situation in which this law should be applied in all its aspects. This pragmatism has enabled the International Monitoring Committee to negotiate with the former rebels and to persuade them to hand over their weapons with honour and dignity. It is in that same context that Lieutenant-Colonel Konzzale, Minister to the Office of the Minister for Territorial Administration, who is responsible for public security and disarmament, has, as head of a technical commission consisting of, inter alia, 10 resource persons (deputies, area heads, former rebels) paid by UNDP, with the participation of the International Monitoring Committee and MISAB, been conducting an awareness-raising and weapons recovery campaign among the civilian population since 12 August 1997.

Disarmament

12. This is, without a doubt, the most delicate phase of the national reconciliation process. Two major phases are envisaged which will make it possible to carry out this operation effectively:

(a) The awareness-raising and voluntary participation phase;

(b) The investigation, intervention and implementation-of-the-law phase.

The voluntary participation phase is the preliminary period which will last between one and two months, depending on how things develop in the field. Its purpose is to raise the awareness of the Central African people by a campaign

conducted on the radio, television and in the written press and also by putting up banners and posters bearing slogans supporting peace, national unity, national reconciliation and disarmament on the main roads of Bangui. Any patriotic citizens who turned in their weapons of their own accord would be rewarded for doing so, in order to encourage all the other ones to return any weapons they might have in their possession. It should be pointed out here that this is in no way a weapons buy-back operation. The investigations, intervention and implementation-of-the-law phase will begin immediately following the first one. It will involve collaborating with informers compensated according to the quality of their information. That will make it possible to locate any weapons caches. During this second period anyone found to be illegally in possession of a weapon will be handed over to the authorities. In addition, MISAB will conduct searches, together with the national defence and security forces.

13. The awareness-raising campaign of the Technical Commission on Disarmament, presided over by Lieutenant-Colonel Evariste Martiale Konzzale, Minister to the Office of the Minister for Territorial Administration, who is in charge of public security and disarmament, was started on 12 August 1997 and is continuing and intensifying in the various areas of the city of Bangui and at the level of the various religious groups. It should be noted that the following important meetings were held between 22 and 29 August:

Friday, 22 August 1997: first meeting with the area heads and members of the disarmament committee of the eighth district;

Saturday, 23 August 1997: meeting with Muslim delegates at the Great Central Mosque of Bangui in the third district, following the meeting of 18 August 1997 between Minister Konzzale and the International Monitoring Committee and the Protestant clergy and other Protestant leaders;

Monday, 25 August 1997: meeting between Minister Konzzale and the district chiefs of police;

Tuesday, 26 August 1997: meeting with leading officials and area and group heads of the fourth district;

Wednesday, 27 August 1997: awareness-raising meeting in the sixth district, at which there was a public handing over of weapons and munitions;

Friday, 29 August 1997: meeting with leading officials and area and group heads of the fifth district.

14. To date the results obtained in the area of disarmament are as follows: since the signing of the Truce Agreement of 28 June 1997 and of the Ceasefire Agreement of 2 July 1997, the following weapons have been handed over to MISAB:

Heavy weapons

120-mm mortars	surrendered:	2 out of a total of 4
81-mm mortars	surrendered:	7 out of a total of 15
60-mm mortars	surrendered:	9 out of a total of 19
14.5-mm machine-guns	surrendered:	5 out of a total of 6
12.7-mm machine-guns	surrendered:	1 out of a total of 3
75-mm recoilless guns	surrendered:	2 our of a total of 2
73-mm anti-tank rocket launchers	surrendered:	63 out of a total of 67
Rocket-propelled grenades	surrendered:	5 out of a total of 11
Total:	surrendered:	94 out of a total of 127
	(weapons recovered:	74.01 per cent)*

It should be noted that since the first report was submitted the following heavy weapons have been recovered:

81-mm mortars	surrendered:	3
60-mm mortars	surrendered:	2
73-mm anti-tank rocket launchers	surrendered:	1
Rocket-propelled grenades (RPG-7)	surrendered:	1

Light weapons

Hand-guns	surrendered:	7 out of a total of 111
Sub-machine-guns	surrendered:	209 out of a total of 459
Assault rifles	surrendered:	178 out of a total of 459
MAS 36-49/56-M14 rifles + muskets	surrendered:	420 out of a total of 1,181
Light machine-guns	surrendered:	45 out of a total of 80
.30-calibre machine-guns	surrendered:	13 out of a total of 17
Miscellaneous munitions		
Total:	surrendered:	872 out of a total of 2,384
	(weapons recovered:	36.50 per cent)**

---

* It should be pointed out that instead of a total of 107 heavy weapons referred to in the first report, the total comes to 127 heavy weapons. This explains why, although there has been a slight improvement in the operation since the last report, the percentage of weapons recovered has dropped slightly.

** It should be noted that following a revised count of the light weapons taken from Government stores by the former rebels, the total figures have been adjusted. More than 100 light weapons have been recovered since the first report.

Recommendations from the General Meeting on National Defence

15. It appears that quite a few of the claims made by the former rebels could be answered by responsible implementation of the 282 recommendations made at the General Meeting on National Defence which was held in August 1996 at Bangui. That is why the International Monitoring Committee, true to the spirit of the Bangui Agreements, proceeded, in April 1997, to set up an ad hoc committee to examine the said recommendations carefully and to set up a schedule for their implementation, breaking them down into categories according to what could be applicable in the short-, medium- and long-term based on the sensitivity of the areas to which the recommendations relate and, above all, the financial resources that would have to be mobilized. The results of the work of the ad hoc committee, which was presided over by a leader of the opposition, General Timothée Malendoma, a former prime minister, have already been transmitted by the International Monitoring Committee to the Ministry of Defence for implementation at the various relevant levels. Since the International Monitoring Committee is merely a mediating body, it must leave the decisions on these matters to the relevant Central African authorities, while remaining ready to serve as arbitrator should the need arise. Subsequent reports will cover what has already been done in this area.

Situation of former heads of State

16. A revised bill has just been prepared by the Government for presentation to the National Assembly at its next session, which will be held in October. The International Monitoring Committee continues to believe that resolution of this problem will have a positive psychological influence on the beneficiaries and on their supporters, as has been the case in a number of democratic African countries.

Suspension of the parliamentary audit

17. The Bangui Agreements call for the "suspension of the judicial enforcement of the parliamentary audit" opened in respect of persons presumed to have misappropriated public funds under the previous regime, for it was understood that the audit had been conducted in a very selective manner and was creating more problems than it was resolving. The International Monitoring Committee, respecting the spirit of the Bangui Agreements, proposed that in order to calm everyone's spirits, suspension of the parliamentary audit should be effected by means of an official act. It was generally agreed that such an act would undoubtedly be taken in the context of the next session of the National Assembly.

National reconciliation

18. Each of the points mentioned above constitute as many phases on the road leading towards national reconciliation. This point concerns the final phase of that exciting process. The International Monitoring Committee, supported by UNDP, is already engaged in making preparations for awareness-raising seminars, symposia and meetings; the first phase will take place at the provincial level and be targeted at specific groups (such as trade unions, women's organizations and youth movements), and the second phase will take place nationally, in the

form of a national reconciliation conference, as recommended by the Bangui Agreements. For this purpose, the International Monitoring Committee is working in close cooperation with the Minister for Human Rights, National Reconciliation and Promotion of a Democratic Culture, who chairs the technical commission on awareness-raising under the patronage of the Prime Minister. At the most recent weekly meeting, held on 27 August 1997, it was possible to assess the cost of each of the activities in question and to target potential sources of funding.

19. In the context of the restructuring of the Central African Armed Forces, the International Committee for Monitoring the Bangui Agreements had requested UNDP to set up a fund to assist military personnel wishing to leave active service in returning to civilian life, and UNDP had agreed to do so. UNDP launched a project on demobilization, retraining and reintegration for the Central African Armed Forces, which would make it possible to reduce the cost of operating the armed forces and facilitate their restructuring. All Member States and international organizations may make contributions to the fund in question, which will initially be for an amount of approximately US$ 2 million. The project will be operational in September 1997.

COOPERATION WITH THE CENTRAL AFRICAN AUTHORITIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

20. Pursuant to its mandate, the International Monitoring Committee maintains constant contact with the various Central African authorities to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Bangui Agreements. In this connection, it is regularly consulted both by the President of the Republic and Head of State and by the Prime Minister and Head of Government, as well as by the National Assembly on a considerable number of issues concerning the life of the Central African nation.

21. The International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the Bangui Agreements, acting on behalf of MISAB and/or on its own behalf, maintains regular contacts with international organizations, including UNDP and foreign diplomatic missions based in Bangui, with a view to requesting their diplomatic, financial and material support for mediation initiatives in the Central African Republic.

22. In the period covered by this report, the International Monitoring Committee was received three times by the President of the Republic to discuss, in particular, issues relating to the reconstitution of the Government of Action for the Defence of Democracy, the recovery of weapons in circulation among the civilian population, and various measures to reduce tension and consolidate peace.

23. The International Monitoring Committee met with a number of political leaders from both the presidential majority and the opposition with a view to dealing with the difficulties encountered in the endeavour to bring about national reconciliation.

DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE

24. It should be recalled that, at the request of the mediator, General Amadou Toumani Touré, and with the agreement of the Conference on Consensus-Building and Dialogue, held in Bangui from 11 to 16 January 1997, the Heads of State of Gabon, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad decided to send an inter-African force with logistical support from France. This force, known as the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements, includes, in addition to troops from Gabon, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad (the countries members of the International Mediation Committee), troops from Senegal and Togo, as a result of the decision of President Abdou Diouf and President Gnassingbé Eyadema to contribute to this gesture of African solidarity.

25. The activities of MISAB are governed by the mandate assigned to it by the heads of State concerned (see document S/1997/561). These daily activities are many and complex, and can be summed up as actions aimed at preventing confrontation between the two main forces in question, the loyalists of the Central African Armed Forces and the former rebels.

26. MISAB, which is deployed throughout the city of Bangui, is ensuring security in all neighbourhoods of the central African capital by occupying 20 surveillance posts, and is carrying out patrols nightly in each of the city's eight districts.

27. The MISAB force currently consists of six contingents with a strength of 796 soldiers (officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks), distributed as follows:

Burkina Faso	114
Mali	113
Senegal	153
Togo	120
Gabon	149
Chad	147

A map showing MISAB deployment is annexed to this report. The force is provided with a French logistical support command unit, with 88 men. A French liaison and assistance detachment, with 39 men, has been made available to MISAB.

28. Owing to the development of organized crime, with the passive or active complicity of the former rebels, the activities of MISAB have been extended, with the agreement of the parties concerned, to operations to maintain security in the various neighbourhoods. Since the signing of the Ceasefire Agreement on 2 July 1997, MISAB has participated, on the basis of a consensus, in joint security patrols with approximately 120 men, consisting of MISAB personnel, loyalists and rebels in all districts of Bangui.

29. As the only force able to circulate everywhere since the withdrawal of the French operational assistance units, MISAB frequently receives requests from all neighbourhoods in the city to carry out medical evacuations to hospitals or to respond to the many calls from individuals subjected to aggression of all types.

30. In the daytime, it is also MISAB that provides security and escorts for convoys to supply fuel, a strategic product to be delivered to all the stations of PETROCA, the national petroleum products distribution company, from the Kolongo warehousing centre, which is in an area earlier controlled by the former rebels.

31. Since its arrival in Bangui in February 1997, MISAB, which is a neutral and impartial force, has been of considerable help in creating the climate of security which has emerged over a period of days, weeks and months. After many operations designed to deter and respond to flagrant provocations, it has managed to contain the organized crime, hold-ups and other armed robberies which had sown terror in Bangui and in the country's interior.

32. MISAB was deployed to complement the actions of the various security services, which had been weakened by the rebellion. In August 1997, MISAB security activities yielded the following results:

Reports:

5 murders

16 hold-ups

Drug trafficking

Cash thefts

1 rape with hostage-taking

Thefts of various articles: video recorders and other articles.

Patrols in August 1997:

2 murderers arrested

30 thieves arrested

2 drug traffickers arrested with 12 kilograms of cannabis

3 stolen vehicles recovered and returned to their owners.

Weapons recovered during patrols:

4 AKs

2 automatic pistols

1 MAT 49 sub-machine gun

1 Sten SAR

257 small-calibre cartridges.

33. MISAB receives logistical support from the following sources:

(a) Participating States: Each State with troops in Bangui provides its personnel (officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks) with their regular pay and supplies them with weapons;

(b) France: France, which was an observer of the Bangui Agreements, agreed to provide logistical support to the various contingents as follows:

- Payment of the soldiers' total food allowance and daily subsistence allowance at the rates currently applicable to Central African military personnel;

- Payment of rents for the buildings used by military personnel and the MISAB Command;

- Provision of tactical and support vehicles for the force;

- Supply of fuel and vehicle maintenance;

- Supply of office equipment.

An overall evaluation of the cost of deploying MISAB in Bangui cannot be conducted until the end of the mission. However, taking all expenses into account, the cost of the logistical support provided to MISAB by France amounts to some 350 million CFA francs per month, or about $600,000;

(c) Government of the Central African Republic: Vehicles for use by command personnel;

(d) Organization of African Unity (OAU): Special grant in the amount of $40,000 in March 1997 to assist the various contingents. A second special grant of $60,000 has been made jointly to the International Monitoring Committee and MISAB.

34. In the course of the various operations conducted by MISAB, and particularly during the confrontations of 22 and 23 March and 20 to 26 June, the force suffered the following losses:

- 6 dead (3 Chadian soldiers, 2 Gabonese soldiers and 1 Senegalese soldier)

- 20 wounded (13 Chadian soldiers, 5 Senegalese soldiers, 1 Malian soldier and 1 Gabonese soldier).

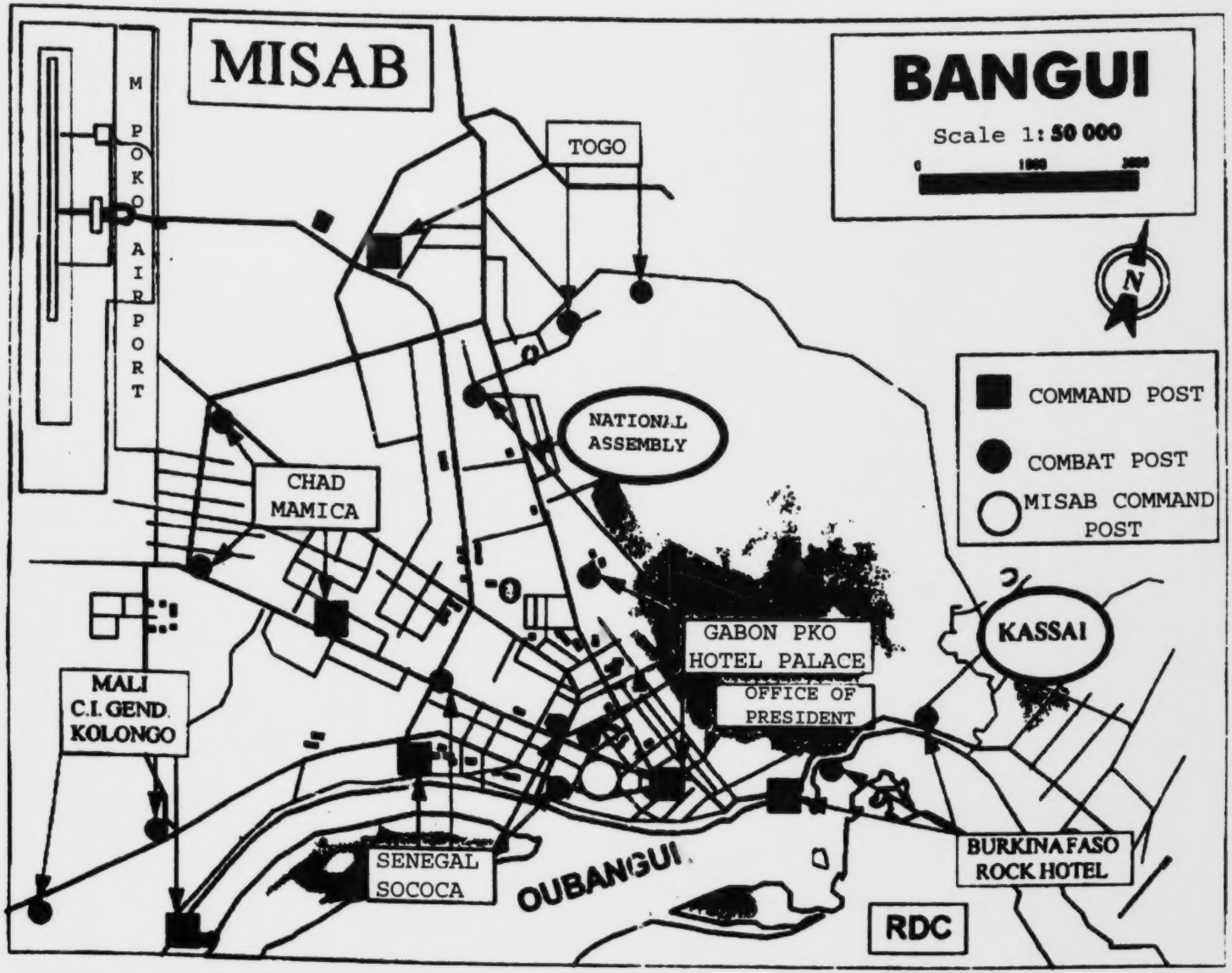
Conclusions

35. The current experience with the Central African crisis is unique, and is all the more stimulating in that it is unlike any previous experience. The African mediation in Bangui, with its strengths and weaknesses, gives an idea of what Africans can do to settle internal conflicts on their continent. However,

it is important to point out that, owing to the insufficiency of the African countries' own resources, logistical support from the international community, along the lines of the support which France has provided to MISAB and which remains open to contributions from all other States, remains a necessity.

36. The adoption of resolution 1125 (1997), which was hailed by the entire Central African political community, the whole of Africa and the international community, is perceived as a recognition of the beneficial role being played by MISAB in synergy with the International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the Bangui Agreements.

37. For the people of the Central African Republic in general, and for the entire spectrum of the political community in particular, Security Council resolution 1125 (1997), appears to be a sort of catalyst accelerating the march towards national reconciliation and lasting peace. The impression in Bangui is that a new era has begun, an era of progressive restoration of confidence and resumption of activities in various fields.


MISAB
BANGUI
Scale 1: 50 000
M POKO AIR PORT
TOGO
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
CHAD MAMICA
COMMAND POST
COMBAT POST
MISAB COMMAND POST
N
GABON PKO HOTEL PALACE
OFFICE OF PRESIDENT
KASSAI
MALI C.I. GEND. KOLONGO
SENEGAL SOCOCA
OUBANGUI
BURKINA FASO ROCK HOTEL
RDC